

**WINNEBAGO COUNTY
AGING & DISABILITY RESOURCE CENTER (ADRC) COMMITTEE**

MEETING MINUTES

DATE OF MEETING: Monday, December 9, 2024

TIME OF MEETING: 3:00 p.m.

PLACE OF MEETING: Oshkosh Human Services Building, Room 033, 220 Washington Avenue,
Oshkosh, WI 54901

Members Present: Jim Lauer, Harold Singstock, Kristine Hutter, Elizabeth Jones (virtual), KristL Laux,

Members Absent: Sue Ertmer, Brook Slick, Tanisha Alvarado, Barry Christensen, Paul Janty, Anna Malek,

Staff Present: Beth Roberts, Ashley Beattie-Lokken (virtual), Brian Nagler, Jill Butler,

Others Present: Kim Biedermann (East Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission), Kate Blackburn (East Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission), Jim Collins (City of Oshkosh Transportation Director), Steve Tomasik (GoTransit Operations Manager)

- A. Call to Order – **Jim Lauer** called the meeting to order. Self-introductions were given by **Kim Biedermann, Kate Blackburn, Jim Collins, and Steve Tomasik.**
- B. Approval of September and November 2024 Meeting Minutes: **Harold Singstock** made a motion to approve the September and November meeting minutes, seconded by KrisL Laux, motion carried.
- C. Public Comments: No members of the public were in attendance.
- D. Business Items:
 1. Oshkosh Paratransit Updates – Jim Collins, Kate Blackburn, Kim Biedermann: Jim reported that the City of Oshkosh operates a fix transit system in conjunction with also offering paratransit service.
 - Oshkosh Paratransit Study – Kate Blackburn of East Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission reported that per federal requirements, paratransit services need to be comparable to fixed route systems. Paratransit is defined as non-medical transport for elderly or disabled who are unable to utilize fixed bus routes. The City had asked East Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission to do a study to assist in looking at service options. A comparison of nearby communities found that Eau Claire fully contracts all countywide services, Fond du Lac operates services within the city with outside software, and the City of Sheboygan operates services utilizing in-home software. Kate explained three potential scenarios along with opportunities and challenges of each: 1) purchase software and then contract services out, 2) purchase software and bring paratransit operations fully in-house, and 3) fully contract out all operations. The estimated cost for in-house including only software, vehicles, facilities, and land is \$15 million and vendor deterrents were addressed. The current contract expenditures for paratransit are currently a little over \$1 million per year and there are approximately 100 rides a day. There was a discussion about current services in that Oshkosh is the only one offering 24/7 transports. The City contracts with City Cab for inner city Oshkosh transports and Winnebago County for rural rides. There are some issues with the current vendor and competitive vendors are needed for bidding on the next RFP to achieve a better service. The estimate is that 24.3 percent of after hour rides are social, 21 percent work, 20 percent shopping, and the remainder minor rides. Kate showed a slide that illustrated that there would not be a substantial loss in ridership if rides were cut to only serve

fixed route times and low-income individuals requiring rides outside of those timeframes qualify for the Access to Jobs Program.

- Concerns over cutting Sunday services were expressed by the public at the City's Transportation Committee meeting. The bulk of Sunday ridership consists of transports for people to attend church services.
- Ideas for service hour options: 1) Maintain 24/7 – which is a major vendor deterrent; 2) adjust to a fixed route service span which data supports as being Mon-Sat 6:15 a.m. to 6:45 p.m.; or 3) hybrid TBD with data hours of 6 a.m. to 10 p.m. Mon-Sat plus Sundays 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. A focus group is being established to obtain opinions of users. Changes would be implemented approximately March/April of 2025.
- Committee Discussion: **Liz Jones** shared that people with disabilities may be falling between the cracks given the Access to Jobs Program requirement of working 30 hours a week minimum and also that evening shopping may be necessary for those who have sensory issues. She suggested that perhaps a special exception, individualized plans, or specialized funding may be necessary for those with disabilities. **Jim Collins** stated that additional requirements are that income must be within 275 percent of the federal poverty level along with living and working in the city. **Steve Tomasik** added that Access to Jobs Program would remain intact and that hours at a minimum must match those for the fixed routes. October rides from 6 p.m. to 6 a.m. ranged from 0 to 6.1 rides per hour. **Beth Roberts** stated that data on the number of disabled individuals working under 30 hours that are needing rides to/from jobs in between 10 p.m. and 6 a.m. would need to be determined. **Jim Lauer** suggested it may be cheaper to just provide a \$10 card towards rides and questioned if the vendor could "share the load" along with asking what the timeframe on this is. **Jim Collins** stated that it is necessary to outsource. The process is that first user input will be gathered, then this will go back to the Transportation Committee in approximately February and vendor proposals will also be evaluated. Input can be emailed by going to the GO Transit website. Anyone interested in serving on the steering committee should contact Steve or Beth. Vendors can partner with other companies. The goal is to serve as many people as possible and Jim shared options of cabs, Lyft, Uber, private rides, and Social Services agencies for those who need rides outside of the programming. Funding is approximately 50-56% through federal and state, 5% county; 20% fares, and 20% city tax levy. **KristL Laux** stated that the government should be funding transports more heavily.

85.21 Specialized Transportation Assistance Funding – **Jill Butler** reported that the application deadline is this week. Funding is for Winnebago County as a whole and Valley Transit serving Menasha/Neenah/Fox Crossing and Go Transit. Request is for a grant allocation of \$430,414 with a local match of \$86,083.

2. Long Term Functional Screens and Family Care Eligibility: **Brian Nagler** presented information regarding the three main services the ADRC provides: information & assistance, options counseling, and enrollment counseling. Brian described that this entails information and assistance regarding resources, informing of various options, and enrollment counseling by doing physical eligibility to Wisconsin's medical assistance programming. Brian provided step-by-step information on the functional screening form entitled Wisconsin Adult Long Term Care Functional Screen (LTCFS) including demographics, referral source, medical and contact information, current residence, diagnostic information/duration, daily functioning, employment information, health related services, communication/cognition, behavioral health, risks. Staff go to the client's home to complete the screening along with assessing abilities in terms of activities of daily living and then return to the office to enter the information into the web-based tool. Brian reported 66 enrollments to Family Care and IRIS last month and completion of 76 functional screens. Each screening takes 2-3 hours to complete. There are currently 11 I&A staff. Staff also complete asset assessments for individuals who are splitting assets.

- E. Reports:
Committee Member Updates:

Beth Roberts – The ADRC office will be closed Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, New Year's Eve, and New Years Day.

KristL Laux – reported she is trying to figure out how to get in touch with committees of disabled people including information on help for them when attending college.

- F. Community Beat – Sharing of Compliments/Complaints from Community, Consumers, Providers:
- G. Items for Next Agenda: Suggestions from committee members for items to be addressed on a future agenda.
- H. Next Meeting Date: January 13, 2025
- I. Adjournment: **Jim Lauer** adjourned the meeting at 4:25 pm.